

# Media Ops takes journalists for ride



Photo by Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir

**Sgt. Rick S. Bell, crew chief, 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, checks on passengers before a flight.**

**By Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir**  
*210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Scouts, volunteers, and servicemembers aren’t the only people roaming the grounds of Fort A.P. Hill during the 2001 National Scout Jamboree.

Every day nearly a dozen local and national media representatives invade “Jamboree City”, with the hopes of gathering information and photos to share with the outside world.

As the journalists enter the post they are guided to the Media Operations Center. There they are given a press packet, which includes an explanation of the jamboree’s mission and additional necessary information. Once they are given a map of event locations, they are allowed access to tour the grounds, and are given a chance to meet Scouts and military personnel.

However, most of these journalists, military and Scout “VIP’s” will tell you that the most exciting part of their visit is the 30-minute UH-1 helicopter tour they receive.

“I’ve been over the post when there were no Scouts here. So I’m looking forward to seeing what it looks like from the air when there are nearly 40,000 individuals walking around,” said John L. Hobbs, Order of the Arrow medical director.

The aerial tours are organized through the Media Operations Center, and provided by C Company, 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, 42nd Infantry Division, Delaware Army National Guard.

The team of pilots and crew chiefs has been flying every day since the official kick-off of the festivities.

Though the UH-1 is usually used for utility type missions, the four aircraft play an important role in the jamboree’s media support.

“I enjoy supporting the jamboree by giving orientation flights for media support,” said Chief Warrant Officer A. Rivera, pilot, 2nd of the 126th Aviation Regiment. “It’s a good experience for everyone.

Everybody likes and is enjoying the helicopter rides.”  
“I’m looking forward to seeing the jamboree site from the air. I want to see the landscape, the trees, and feel the wind in my hair,” said Dominique F. Baker, Central Region Chief, Order of the Arrow service corps, Winona, Minn. “I’m really excited to go up on the helicopter. I’ve never done it before, and I think it will be really cool to look down and see all the scouts. Without a doubt it’ll be one of the best events of the jamboree.”

Prior to boarding the aircraft the passengers are briefed on safety, watch a required five-minute safety video, and are escorted to the landing zone. There they are issued a pair of ear plugs and gather in groups of six to eight, while they wait for their turn to board.

As they board the aircraft visitors are secured by the crew and are given additional safety instruction on proper in-flight behavior. Tours last up to 30 minutes and follow a predetermined path. Guests are flown over the entire jamboree site. From up above visitors are able to see all the different activities and campsites from a pretty impressive view. Some are even able to pick out locations of various troops.

“It was great, awesome,” said Paul W. Penttila, District Director, Boy Scouts of America, once he exited the aircraft. It’s a hold on to your hat type of experience.”

## Clearing the Hill

Advice from the 85th Training Division on how to make your exit out of Wilcox go smoothly....

1.      **Clean, clean, clean!**  
**Sweep and pick up around your bunk and in central areas.**  
**Clean the bathroom area (especially showers and sinks)**  
**Empty and clean out your wall and foot lockers**

2.      **Turn in your linen to Bldg 1632**

3.      **Sign out at Bldg 1633**

**Be prepared for an inspection!**

## Fort A.P. Hill Chaplain Services

- Sunday Collective Services ...July 22, 29 and August 5; 11 a.m. until Noon ... Building 1652
- Bible Study and Fellowship every Wednesday 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. ... Building 1653
- Counseling Session ... Noon until 3 p.m. ... Chaplain’s Office ...Building 1653, phone number 8631
- Pastoral Care Available ... 24 hours a day, seven days a week

### Weather

Today



▲ 79 ▼ 63

Tuesday



▲ 82 ▼ 61

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◆ **Top bagpiper entertains/Page 6**

**Monday**  
**July 30, 2001**  
**Vol 2, No 10**

# Trooper Hill

Published for the servicemembers supporting the 2001 National Scout Jamboree

## Big wheels roll on A.P.’s Hills

**By Sgt. Eric C. Barker**  
*300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Ever heard of the saying, “Behind every good man there is a good woman?” Well, the Army reservists with the 179th Transportation Company of Belton, Mo., have a saying of their own. It goes, “Behind every good mission there is a good transportation company.”

The 179th Trans Co. are the behind the scene soldiers who keep everything moving along at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree here.

“ We work with the Directorate of Logistics. They give us all our missions. Our mission here is to support the soldiers and units who support the Boy Scouts,” explained 1st Sgt. Jimmy D. Skinner with the 179th Trans Co.

The 47-member transportation company supports installation operations and also gives a hand to the Boy Scouts of America operation here for the jamboree.

“You call we haul. We transport everything, from the stuff you see in the PX to the food you eat in the dining facility,” explained a smiling Skinner with pride.

The 179th has a history of support missions from supporting homeless veterans, to the Scouts in Betlon, Mo., to the Scouts here at the jamboree.

“We support the jamboree Scouts in a large amount of ways. We do a lot of different things for them like filling and moving the water buffaloes, hauling picnic tables and Scout rations. The list goes on,” said Spc. Joe Adkins, a medium truck operator with the 179th Trans Co.

The severe rainstorm Thursday was another occasion where the Scouts enlisted the help of the 179th.

“Apparently some Scouts and their tents got wet. A contingency plan was already prepared for just such a case. There were two trailers set aside and ready for emergency use,” explained Adkins. “We were called in to move the trailers filled with tents, cots and blankets.”

The 179th members are proud of the role they play in support of the



Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker

**Sgt. Brian Morrison, medium truck tactical operator, 179th Transportation Company, Belton, Mo., checks the tire tread on a deuce-and-a-half truck while Spc. Mark Christopher Catchcart, medium truck tactical operator with the 179th, checks the oil during their preventive maintenance checks and services.**

jamboree.  
“I had two brothers who were Scouts and always wanted to be one. It feels good to help,” said a reflective Adkins. “I work back home with the Scouts at my church and they’re good kids, these Scouts.”  
“My six-year old daughter is very proud of her daddy and wishes she could be here. I think it’s great for children and soldiers alike,” said a smiling Adkins.

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# Out of the water, into the woods

By **Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir**  
*210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

When you think of a ship in the ocean, you usually think of sailors dressed in Navy whites or blue dungarees. When you think of tactical maneuvers practice in the wilderness, you usually think of soldiers camouflaged in green and black.

So it's a little surprising to see Navy Chief Petty Officer James L. Ayers, Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va., teaching wilderness safety underneath a tent at Merit Badge Midway.

It's even more exciting to know that he's a former Scout turned Army reservist turned Navy electrician. Like wearing "cammies," working with wilderness maneuvers and safety is nothing new to Ayres.

Ayres' unique military experience and scouting history has well qualified him as a wilderness safety instructor.

"My purpose here is to verify that Scouts (about 140 a day) have the knowledge required to earn the merit badge; I do this by facilitating learning of wilderness survival," said Ayers. "To fully complete the badge they must be instructed on treatment of common injuries, learn how to build a liveable structure, and other aspects of survival techniques."

As a teen he was able to obtain several different merit badges, which helped in becoming an Eagle Scout with Troop 104, Central Illinois. His dedication to achievement followed him into his military career as

he rose through the ranks to become a Navy Chief.

At an early age, Ayres learned the importance of staying true to the Navy's core values: honor, courage and commitment. They were right in line with what the Scouts believe. The Boy Scouts of America lists 12 virtues, which they feel every Scout should abide by. These include trust, kindness, obedience, and loyalty.

"You cannot make it through scouting without being loyal and committed. This here [the jamboree] shows the commitment these kids have," said Ayers.

The grandness of this jamboree requires that thousands of Scouts are kept focused and motivated by their instructors, Scout leaders and other volunteers throughout its duration.

"One of the most important things that adults have to remember is that we have to give back whatever we've received," said Ayers. "It means everything in life that if someone helps you out, you turn around and help someone else. This is the road of life. Somebody helped me and kept me out of trouble, now this is my job; I've got to pay back."

Ayers successfully pays back his debt by regularly volunteering as the Cub Scout leader of Pack 926 out of Tidewater Council, Norfolk, Va.

"As a military service the Navy volunteers their services to the peace and well-being of our nation's youth, everyday. My command as well as the Navy as a whole is



Photo by Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir

**Navy Chief Petty Officer James L. Ayers, Fleet Training Center, Norfolk, Va., instructs Scout Tommi B. Carson, Troop 635, Piedmont, Calif., on the proper way to build a liveable structure in the wilderness.**

doing a lot here," said Ayers.

So don't be shocked to find this 'electric' sailor teaching wilderness survival, or any other servicemembers working outside of their element. For the 2001 NSJ the services have effectively come together to complete a single mission: provide support to Scouts.

## Safety Thoughts

- Better late than not at all.
  - Be as good a driver as you think you are.
  - Road hogs are butchered daily.
- No, really, be SAFE!
  - You may grow old or careless-take your choice.
  - Safe is a nice four letter word.

## Trooper Hill

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<b>Assistant Editor:</b> Sgt. Eric C. Barker		

# The Information Board

## July 30, 2001

*Cannon, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m.* Daily Ceremony

*85th Division Band, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m.* Daily Ceremony, **12:30 to 1:15 p.m.** Heth Dining Hall and **3 to 4 p.m.** Army Adventure Area

*319th Army Band, 9 to 10 a.m.* Army Adventure Area and **12:30 p.m.** International Stage

*214th Ground Forces Band, 11 a.m. to Noon* Army Adventure Area, **1 to 2 p.m.** Stage Show and **9 to 10 p.m.** Arena Show Party

*U.S. Coast Guard Drill Team, 11 to 11:30* Stage Show, **1 to 1:30 p.m.** Army Adventure Area and **4 to 4:30 p.m.** Stage Show

*85th Division Band, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m.* Daily Ceremony, **12:30 to 1:15** Heth Dining Hall and **3 to 4 p.m.** Army Adventure Area

*Crossfire Rock Band, 7:15 to 9 p.m.* Stage Show

## July 31, 2001

*214th Ground Forces Band, 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to Noon* Army Adventure Area

*82nd Airborne Freefall Team, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 2:30 p.m.* Stage Show

*319th Army Band, 11 a.m. to Noon* Stage Show and **12:30 to 1:15 p.m.** International Stage

*85th Division Band, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.* Heth Dining Hall and **3 to 4 p.m.** Army Adventure Area

*Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, 1 to 1:30 p.m.* Army Adventure Area and **3 to 3:30 p.m.** Stage Show

Remember to  
**DRINK WATER!!!**

## Important Times

**DFAC ... Wilcox**  
Breakfast ... 5:30 to 8 a.m.  
Lunch ... Box lunch picked up at breakfast  
Dinner ... 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Swing Shift ... 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**PX ... Wilcox**  
Monday through Saturday ... 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday ... 2 to 7 p.m.

## First Army

NYHTPYEEFRRMQDTGIBGZRMREM  
SORUDEVOUNIDRIPRJASBHAENI  
TGIANRRHNTAIKPOUCSX Y IRSNS  
NHETETTS CJCZUY PDMIFJNSPOS  
ERISAREHHKSR ETRAUQDAEHOGI  
MBESAZEREI PYGVJBOCND AANRO  
YRYCTLINLONU KKITIYB DMLSAN  
OEA OLOBLSIAGAAOTJAF TWLIND  
LMCGXAREIRGZYMBUCSXFQKB OI  
PPHRCY EYDBWGERESDABGVUIJD  
EYAKOARMYTOL EAMERICANLLZT  
DYERRFXFP TLMETCITI ZENCIRB  
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NLURQSXIGFKDHHAKXXPELVYAQ  
BCFQKVULJSSEEOLTNBFRBSDBI  
NUDREV KHTLAEEUAVSSIFFDOME  
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HJNMHFVLFAPSZIFTMNN CXWYCE  
TSRIFYEKVNSUHQHOWNVERN XEN  
VISIONQQUJDOIIBPWYDNAMRON

ACTIVE	MACARTHUR
AMERICAN	MARSHALL
ARGONNE	MISSION
ARMY	MITCHELL
CITIZEN	MOBILIZATION
COMBAT	NORMANDY
DEED	PARIS
DEPLOYMENT	PERSHING
ENDSTATE	PURPOSE
FIRST	READY
FORCE	RESERVE
FORT	RESPONSIBILITY
GILLEM	RHINE
GUARD	RICKENBACKER
HEADQUARTERS	TASKS
HISTORY	VERDUN
HUNTER-LIGGETT	VISION
KEY	YORK



# Bagpiper draws crowds to Army band

By Sgt. Samuel McLarty  
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

It's like a scene from an old fairy tale. A man walks along leading a pack of children enchanted by the music coming from his pipes. The further he walks the larger his pack of children becomes.

This time however, the piper is in camouflage.

Sgt. 1st Class Virgil T. Wilk, symphonic clarinetist with the 85th Training Support Battalion, an all reserve band from Arlington, Va., plays many instruments for the 85th. But, the one that gains him the most attention at the 2001 National Jamboree is the bagpipes.

Although the bagpipes aren't part of any set the band performs, Wilk plays them just before performances to draw a crowd, and between performances to give him an opportunity to mix with people.

"I love mixing with the kids. I do it all the time. At home I get calls for funerals and weddings and stuff, and when I'm not playing I mix with the people," said Wilk.

Wilk has been playing the bagpipes for about 30 years, he said, and came across them in an unusual way.

"There was this kid that used to hang around me. His father had left and his mother would go to work and just let the kid run around the neighborhood. I had a business that had to do with dogs and he liked dogs, so he was always hanging around the animals,"

## MP Co. ready to point you in right direction

By Sgt. David Lomax  
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

There is an occupation that is often not unappreciated, yet the people who perform this job provide a valuable service to mankind. As a result of their professionalism, commitment and tireless effort, people are able to travel safely on streets and roadways. People are able to work, play and live in their homes under the blanket of safety and security they provide.

This occupation is military policeman.

Army Reserve soldiers of the 342nd and 447th Military Police Company from Akron, Ohio, join together to provide valuable law enforcement services at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree.

"The combined mission of the 447th MP Co. and 342nd MP Co. is to provide physical security, man traffic control points at all entrances and exits and bicycle patrols in high foot traffic areas," said 1st Lt. John W.



Photo by Sgt. Samuel McLarty

**Sgt. 1st Class Virgil T. Wilk, 85th Training Support Division, plays his Scottish bagpipes for the Scouts attending the 2001 National Scout Jamboree.**

said Wilk.

"He wasn't a good reader so I would sit him down and make him read the newspaper. Sometimes I'd play music for him or let him listen to my albums. One album I had was bagpipe music and he liked to listen to it, so I'd play it for him.

"One day I was playing a concert in the park, and the kid was running around the park and he came up to me in between tunes and said he'd found somebody playing bagpipes," said Wilk. "There was this guy playing bagpipes in the basement of the park house because his landlord wouldn't let him practice in his apartment."

According to Wilk, the man's name was Jack Carter. Although Carter had been playing for 17 years, he had never performed publicly.

"So I went and met the guy. I figured he couldn't play, I mean he was playing in the park house basement, but he could play pretty well. But he was so afraid to play in front of people."

Wilk said Carter had been a student of an overly critical instructor that had broke down Carter's self-esteem.

Wilk decided Carter needed a musical partner. "He thought he wasn't worth listening to. He had a poor opinion of himself, but he was OK.

Once I got with him though, within four months we were out doing jobs. He kept saying 'we can't do that, we don't know those tunes' but I said, 'Yes we can, because those people don't know what we know.'

"It's like what I tell these Scouts," said Wilks. "Don't give up on yourself before you even try."



Photo by Sgt. David Lomax

**Sgt. Brad A. Ruoff, military policeman with the 342nd Military Police Company, Troy, Ohio, directs traffic during the NJS.**

tional procedures. I get them water and take care of their needs," said Eggert.

"The 342nd has a bicycle patrol for mobility in high congested areas," said Staff Sgt. Tina A. Mox, noncommissioned officer-in-charge. There are two six-man bicycle teams that work seven-hour shifts. Mox said each soldier received two days of bicycle training from the Department of Defense police prior to the jamboree.

# USS Barque Eagle sails into jamboree

By Spc. Mark S. Rickert,  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

For future reference, this is how you entice a Rear Admiral with the Coast Guard to the 2001 National Scout Jamboree: You build an almost identical replica of his ship, complete with portholes, sails, and flags.

That's exactly what Connecticut Troop 212 did, and it worked.

Rear Adm. Charles D. Wurster, assistant commandant for acquisition at the Coast Guard headquarters, made a special appearance at the 2001 National Scouts Jamboree to see the remake of the U.S. Barque Eagle. The model is a colorful replica of the ship, scaled down to one-fifth of its original size and built by the Scouts and their family members.

"It was pretty impressive from the helicopter," said Wurster. "But to tell you the truth, once I saw it up close I was amazed. This has got to be a prize winner."

The admiral saw the visit as an opportunity to relive some old memories and offer



Photo by Spc. Mark S. Rickert.

**Rear Admiral Charles D. Wurster is welcomed by the Scouts.**

encouraging words to the Scouts. Once an Eagle Scout himself, the admiral reflected on how being a Scout gave his life direction.

"I feel like a 14-year-old all over again," said Wurster. "When I look back on life, I see that there is no other recognition that I've earned that meant more to me than becoming an Eagle Scout. Teamwork and the values you learn here will follow you throughout your whole life."

The admiral drew special attention to the Eagle Scouts in the crowd and inspired them to look out for their friends.

"You guys who are already Eagle Scouts—help out the guys behind you. I want to encourage you to keep marching on the Eagle

trail."

Afterwards, the admiral stayed for dinner and had a chance to interact with the Scouts.

**“When I look back on life, I see that there is no other recognition that meant more to me than becoming an Eagle Scout.”**

*Rear Admiral Charles D. Wurster  
Asst. Commandant  
Coast Guard Headquarters*

"I'm speechless," said 1st Sgt. John B. Stone with the 192d Field Artillery, and who is also a Scoutmaster. "Being in the military myself, this is like having a general over for dinner," said Stone. "You can see what it does for the kids. Normally, they're sitting around trading patches. But they knew a special guest was coming because of something they did and now they're really excited."

"This is a very unexpected surprise," said Christopher J. Wagner, the senior patrol leader of Troop 212. "We spent a lot of time on this project, and the admiral coming here tops off the jamboree experience."



Photo by Spc. Mark S. Rickert

**A miniature model of the USS Barque Eagle, built by Troop 212 of Connecticut.**



# Retiree spins sailing stories for Scouts



Photo by Cpl. Holly M. Arnold

**Scout Michael Nevious from Troop 0939, Lamar, Colo., listens intently to Retired Coast Guard Auxiliary Capt. John E. Lloyd from Elizabeth City, N.C., teach a class on small boating.**

**By Cpl. Holly M. Arnold**  
314th Press Camp  
Headquarters

“He always has a smile for everyone he meets. He works long hours in the heat when most 19-year-olds are too tired to go on. Yet at the end of a long day, he is still joking with everyone back at the barracks,” said retired Coast Guard Senior Chief Douglas E. Yeckley with Solomon’s Flotilla, 20th Division, 5th Coast Guard District in Solomon’s Island, Md.

The 77-year-old Coast Guardsman Yeckley refers to one of the most experienced servicemembers here in support of the jamboree.

“I’m looking forward to my next jamboree. I have my fingers crossed I will make it; I will be 81,”

said Coast Guard Auxiliary Capt. John E. Lloyd, a retired division commander from Elizabeth City, N.C.

Lloyd is here supporting the National Scout Jamboree by teaching a class in small boating.

“We accept volunteers based on their experience in the services and their experience in the Scouts. Mostly we look for skill. Since he has been a sailor and a Scout for years, he has the experience we were looking for,” said Yeckley, who reviews the resumes sent in by Coast Guard volunteers for the jamboree.

Lloyd’s life-long involvement and service in the Scouts makes him a distinguished member of the Coast Guard team here. Lloyd was a shipboard engineering officer on a troop transport tanker during WWII and served on a destroyer during the Korean War. He served in the Merchant Marines and Navy Reserve for 20 years, and has a dual commission.

“I was an Eagle Scout, a Scoutmaster, a Sea Scout skipper and then an adult leader for four years,” said Lloyd. This is his second jamboree.

His friendly demeanor and experience makes him a favorite among the Scouts.

“I think they respect me a little more because of my background. I have practical application experience. I also entertain them with my sea stories,” said Lloyd.

He teaches classes in tents all day so that Scouts can earn their merit badges. It’s sweltering hot, and he has to stand on his feet for long hours, but he couldn’t seem more pleased.

“I do it for the job satisfaction. I love being able to pass on my knowledge to the young people. It’s a great experience. It does my heart good to see the team work between the various services,” said Lloyd.

## Chaplain delivers service, inspiration

**By Spc. Briana G. Wright**  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When soldiers are away from home they leave behind many activities, but going to church doesn’t have to be one of them.

Soldiers here in support of the National Scout Jamboree are given the opportunity to attend several religious activities to aid in spiritual growth.

These activities include Wednesday night bible study, Friday night choir rehearsal, and daily counseling sessions.

“My mission is to provide religious programs and pastoral care to all soldiers. I also support them in religious and spiritual matters, and offer them professional counseling sessions as they need them,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Sun S. Macupa, Task force chaplain with 7th Transportation Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The services, which are non-denominational, are open to more than 2,500 soldiers who wish to attend, said Macupa.

According to Macupa, the services are a good place for soldiers to get a release from anxiety and stress that they might experience while away from home.

“When soldiers have those problems

they can’t concentrate on their jobs,” she said.

Macupa is pleased with the turnout and great feedback that she’s been getting from the soldiers here.

“The numbers showing up are pretty good as far as I can see. Others would love to make it as well, but they have different missions at different times,” she said.

“They [the soldiers] are so happy that we have the program. They can come join us instead of going out drinking or something. It feeds them spiritually,” Macupa said.

Even though soldiers may not be at home, there is a place where they can acknowledge the spiritual side of life.

“It [attending services] just reminds

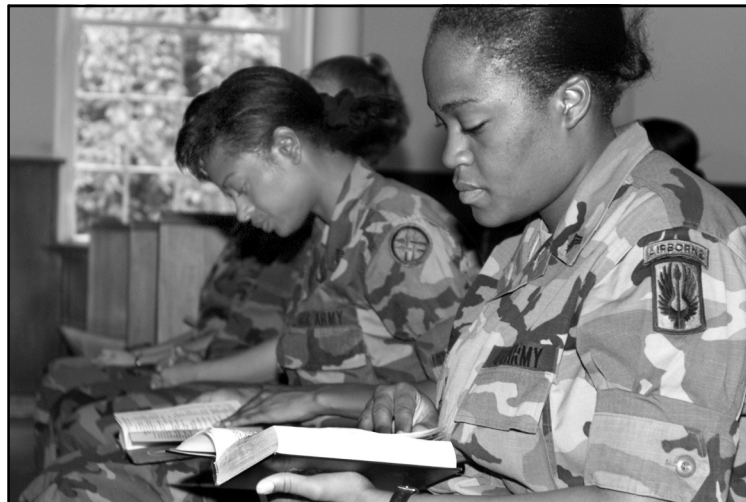


Photo by Spc. Briana G. Wright

**Sgt. Cureston M. Brice with the 1st Battalion of the 159th Aviation Regiment and Sgt. Cheryl L. Werts with the 352nd Military Police Company read along at the Sunday Collective Service.**

everyone who’s really in charge. It’s not the colonels or the generals or the sergeants major, but it’s the big airborne ranger in the sky,” said Lt. Col. Bert B. Robbins with the military jamboree support center.



Photo by Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney

**Petty Officer 3rd Class Aris D. Miranda guides Scouts through basic oceanography in the Merit Badge Midway.**

## Sailor helps Scouts explore ocean depths

**By Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney**  
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

When navigators plot a ship’s course, whom do they call to find out which path is the safest? Who can the Navy refer to for basic information about the seas from depth and bottom sediment to temperature and salinity? These people are called oceanographers, and normally they study and explore the oceans and their phenomena, but now it’s their chance to teach.

For the duration of the National Scout Jamboree, Scouts can rely on the oceanography station in the Merit Badge Midway to provide them with the basics in the study of the oceans.

## Protocol ‘knocks their socks off’ at NSJ

**By Spc. Mark S. Rickert**  
372d Mobil Public Affairs Detachment

A two-star general comes to visit the Scouts and the troop to which he once belonged. A Rear Admiral with the Coast Guard hears about a display built, modeled after the U.S. Eagle. He wants to see it. The Secretary of the Army decides to visit the jamboree and shake a few hands.

Men like these don’t just walk onto the post without an escort. Men like these never drive themselves.

That’s why the Protocol Office located here is full of bustling military personnel, each with one mission: to make a V.I.P visit run smoothly.

Protocol has a number duties ranging from research to escort. They handle visitations from high-ranking military personnel and are responsible for making their visit run flawlessly and efficiently.

“We have what we call a D.V., a distin-

guished visitor,” said Air Force Capt. Kenneth A. Marentette, protocol briefer and also a member of the USAF honor guard. “The D.V. are high ranking military personnel, sometimes generals, sometimes the sergeant major of the Army.”

To get started, Protocol orients their visitors with information about the jamboree.

“We start with a briefing,” said Marentette. “We show a video about the jamboree that explains logistics and statistics and we show them what the jamboree has to offer. But we try to keep it short. The best thing to do is see 30,000 Scouts in action.”

Preparation breeds efficiency. To be truly prepared, Protocol makes sure their drivers are familiar with the area and that their escorts are aware of the surroundings.

“Our drivers are well prepared,” said Marentette. “They spend four to six hours a day doing nothing but learning the area. That way they can get anywhere within 15 minutes, even when the Scouts are in the area.”

“Oceanography is a field that covers the entire ocean, from the surface to the floor,” said Donald P. Ecuyer, commercial imagery data manager for Naval Oceanographic Office. “But this course gives a pretty good overview of oceanography.”

“We normally cycle through about 80 Scouts a day,” said Ecuyer, the former assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 710, Metairie, La. “The course usually takes two and a half hours and ends in with a 500-word essay.”

“The Scouts seem to be really into it,” said Ecuyer, “So far we’ve awarded between 33 to 40 merit badges.”

Although the Scouts are persistent and willing to learn, the oceanography merit badge is no easy conquest.

According to Petty Officer 3rd Class Aris D. Miranda, a meteorologist-oceanographer with the Naval Ice Center in Washington, D.C., the participants in the oceanography course must be present for the class. They must be attentive enough to answer six oceanography-related questions and each question counts as one different objective.

Then they are given the task of making a wave generator, as outlined in the merit badge guide for oceanography. “The generator is used to show the different phases of waves,” said Miranda.

Finally, the Scouts must complete a 500-word essay about oceanography and its importance to mankind as well as the Navy.

After successful completion of the program, the Scouts are awarded the oceanography merit badge. However, there is more gained here than just the badge.

“I think Scouts can use the information learned here to understand more about the ocean,” said Miranda. “They’ll know what to do and what not to do as far as preserving the ocean and protecting the animals,” he said.

Nodding in agreement was Petty Officer 3rd Class Robert A. Mason, a weather technician with the Naval Ice Center in Washington D.C. “I think this [the jamboree] is great,” he said. “The Scouts are very smart, they really want to learn, and they don’t mind working hard to earn this merit badge.”

As far as the course goes, the learning experience doesn’t stop after the badge is gained.

“Here they learn a lot of things they can use later in life,” said Mason, “and maybe it will even help them to decide what they want to do when they grow up.”

“When someone comes in, we find out what kind of time we have to work with and what they want to do,” said Seaman Jason T. Brittingham, an escort with the protocol office.

For Brittingham, being escort allows him an opportunity to make the visit more enjoyable and worth while for both the Scouts and the visitors.

“Our goal is to knock their socks off. We want to ‘wow!’ them,” said Brittingham. “We want them to know that the jamboree can’t afford not to have them.”

Brittingham, who was once a distinguished awarded Scout himself, finds personal satisfaction in supporting the jamboree and does his best to focus on military interaction with the Scouts.

“I try to found out about a certain area and think: how can I get the military to interact?” It makes the visitors feel like kids again and the kids feel special,” said Brittingham.